

## **EDEN ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION**

Monthly Committee Meeting  
Carrickfergus Town Hall

### **Minutes of Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009**

Present

Ronnie Allen (Chairperson)  
Melanie Brown (Vice – Chair)  
Austin Herron (Secretary)  
Ivan Johnston (Treasurer)  
Maxine Law  
Pauline Whittley  
Myrtle Fraser  
Andrew Gault  
Freddie Blair  
Bill Dick  
Brenda Cameron  
Phil Allen

In Attendance

Richard Williamson  
Clive Kavanagh

*Ronnie welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the year and hoped to make it as short as possible to allow for some refreshments at the end*

#### **12.1.09 Apologies**

Stephen Kinnon

#### **12.2.09 Minutes**

The minutes of 4th November 2009 were proposed by Bill Dick and seconded by Freddy Blair and adopted as a true record by the meeting

#### **12.3.09 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered by agenda items

#### **12.4.09 Correspondence**

Austin reported that he had received an email from Stephen Daye indicating that due to a personnel issue he could not attend tonight's meeting. Mel stated that she had a letter

from SARL refusing her grant request but that she would come back to the next meeting and give details regarding a reapplication.

### **12.5.09 Liaison with Council**

Austin said that there was a problem with this part of the meeting since it had been hoped to deal with any issues usually covered under this directly with Stephen Daye but that he was now unable to attend due to a work dispute which appeared to have arisen from accusations made against him by some ploholders. Ronnie indicated that he had attended a meeting in a personal capacity arranged with Alderman Billy Ashe to explore ongoing concerns about rules being applied to their activities on their plots. He felt that at the time it was perhaps preferable that they explored his approach rather than going to the newspapers which some of them had thought of doing. He also understood that Alderman Ashe had gone to Stephen Daye's line manager who had decided that all correspondence regarding the rules on plot usage would be put on hold. Ivan expressed grave concerns about someone's job being possibly put in jeopardy and felt that it would be as important to get some further clarity from Alderman Ashe on his position regarding the possible Whitehead allotment plans at Bentra which would relieve many of the pressures at Eden. Austin stated that as a committed trade unionist he was extremely concerned at any activities by any groups or individuals who undermined a person's job or career particularly the officer concerned who was in fact the key player in establishing the current site. He felt the committee should take some responsibility in not fully dealing with the fences etc. issues. Muriel disagreed and indicated that the sub committee had found negotiations impossible due to inconsistencies in the interpretation of the standards. Rickey said that Billy Ashe is going to take the request for a one meter fence all the way round each plot to the Council sub committee. Mel said that she had tried to talk to Stephen Daye on the allotments and that 'he had thrown a tantrum' and that it was important to clarify that both she and Ronnie had attended the Council meeting in an individual capacity. Myrtle asked if this was made clear at the meeting and Andrew felt that it was important that committee members understand their representational role particularly officers and Phil felt very strongly that people should not be at meetings where they are seen to be representing the Association when this is not the case. There followed some further heated discussion and Phil left the meeting.

### **12.6.09 Reports from Sub Committees & Working Groups**

There were no reports tabled but Austin indicated that he had some policies completed from the Administrative sub committee for tabling in the new year when time permitted.

### **12.7.09 Communal Procurement – Manure; Seeds etc**

Ronnie stated that we would need to give some consideration to communal seed purchased early in the new year.

### **12.8.09 Charitable Status Considerations**

Austin reported that he had discussed the Inland Revenue situation with various outside bodies and felt that a establishing a separate charitable trust body was the best way forward and proposed hat the Association support this approach, and this was seconded by Ivan and agreed by the meeting

### **12.9.09 Storage Container**

Brenda asked when we would be able to get use of the container on the site and Austin reported that he had some discussions with Stephen Daye who would require certain agreements from the committee, including public liability insurance. Following some discussion it was agreed to seek further clarification on the extent of Council insurances in this context.

### **12.10.09 Any Other Business & Date of Next Meeting**

There were some concerns raised over the fences issues' regarding safety matters and it was agreed raise this at the next liaison meeting

Due to holiday arrangements next meeting confirmed would be on  
Wednesday 13 January 2010  
Carrickfergus Town Hall – Committee Room 2.

There was no further business and the meeting closed.